Southend High School for Girls
AN ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Southchurch Boulevard, Southend-on-Sea, SS2 4UZ
Headteacher: Mr J Carey MEd (Cantab), BA (Hons), LLE, NPQEL

Friday, 13 November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Remembrance Day
On Remembrance Day, our school community came together to honour and remember the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed in times of war and conflict (especially the SHSG students who served in 1943). Students and staff gathered for a special Remembrance Day Service, observed a two-minute silence, and reflected on the importance of peace, courage, and remembrance.

The event was marked with respect and unity as everyone joined together to pay tribute to those who gave so much for our freedom. Through reading, reflections, hymns, lunch time activities and wearing poppies, our school demonstrated its commitment to keeping their memories alive and showing gratitude for their service.



SHSG was also represented at the Southend Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. Thank you to Head Student, Mayah G, and Deputy Head Student, Lilyrose H, for laying a wreath on behalf of the school during the commemorations. Hannah KW (Year 13) was also in attendance in her role as Deputy Youth Mayor of Southend-City Youth Council.

Whole School Photographs Collection
For those who have purchased Whole School photographs to be delivered to the school, these will be available for collection from the **School Support Team Office (located behind Reception)** during breaktime and lunchtime on the following dates:

- **Years 7 & 8:** Monday 16th November
- **Years 9 & 10:** Tuesday 17th November
- **Years 11, 12 & 13:** Thursday 19th November

For those who have ordered large frames, to help protect the photographs from damage during the school day, students are asked to **collect their photographs at the end of the school day on these dates only**.

Please note that once photographs have been collected, the school accepts no liability for any loss or damage. Parents and students may, therefore, wish to make suitable arrangements for the safe transportation of photographs home.

Antibullying Week – Odd Socks Day (Monday 16th November)
A reminder that we will be marking Antibullying Week from Monday 16th November. As part of the week, students and staff will be invited to take part in Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November by wearing odd socks with their usual uniform. Thank you for your support.

Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award - Lightning strikes twice
Congratulations to Madison B and Alex A for being among the top 100 winners of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2026. There were over 10,000 entrants from 153 countries for this competition. Their poems were judged to be in the commended category, and both students were invited to the award ceremony at the British Library. The competition was judged by John McAuliffe and Rachel Long who said they were "inspired" by what they read. The competition is prestigious and challenging, so this is a fantastic achievement which they can be rightly proud of. Well done to Madison and Alex - we are fortunate to have such talented poets in the student body.



Debating Society Legacy workshop
At the end of our last academic year, former student Tasnuba R was awarded the Jack Petchey award for starting and developing the Debating Society at SHSG. The Debating Society benefited once more from her generosity this week as her Jack Petchey prize money meant that we could invite Michael Hepburn, founder of DebateHub, to run an all-day workshop focussing on debating skills and tactics. Both the junior and senior debaters clearly benefitted from the day, and there was much praise from them. Student comments included, " [it] really expanded my knowledge [with] great tips on how to articulate my thoughts" (Christianah A, 10AUR); "very fun and enjoyable" (Favour A, 8APH); "amazing and helpful"

(Sahar S, 8ART); “I feel way better at debating now” (Daniella A, 8ATH); “lots of new tricks” (Eleanor A, 9APH). Now we are really looking forward to the first round of the English-Speaking Union's MACE school debate in November. Watch this space!

Green Careers Week 2nd – 6th November

Green Careers Week aims to raise aspirations, promote diversity, and challenge stereotypes surrounding careers in the green economy. The initiative highlights the wide range of opportunities available across all sectors, demonstrating that roles contributing to environmental sustainability extend far beyond traditional environmental industries.

To mark the occasion, students in KS3 and KS4 participated in a tutor-time quiz designed to increase awareness of green careers and sustainability issues. The competition was significant, but it was Year 10 who achieved the highest overall score, demonstrating both excellent knowledge and engagement, with Year 8 coming in at a close second! Congratulations to all involved.

Students in KS4 and KS5 were also invited to take part in a series of virtual work experience opportunities offered through the Green Careers website, with organisations including the Environment Agency, the NHS, and the Royal Meteorological Society. These opportunities provide valuable insights into the growing range of careers focused on addressing environmental challenges and supporting a more sustainable future.

It has also been fascinating to hear students discussing the results of their individual Green Buzz Quiz during lessons. The quiz helps students identify their unique combination of green skills, interests, and personality traits, highlighting how these qualities align with the diverse range of green career pathways now available across the UK. Such conversations have encouraged students to think more deeply about how their strengths and aspirations could contribute to the transition towards a greener future.

Flu Vaccinations

The School Nursing Team visited the school on Monday 9th November to administer flu vaccinations to students in Years 7 and 8. They will be returning to school on Tuesday 17th November to complete the remaining vaccinations for students in Years 9-11.

Planet Action photography competition

More than 110 students took part in the Photography Competition, with each entrant submitting just one photograph. Entries were judged across four categories: **Skyscapes, Nature, Landscapes, and Urban Life**.

The standard of photography was exceptionally high, with images ranging from stunning scenes captured overseas to beautiful photographs taken much closer to home. The competition showcased both the creativity and technical skill of our students.

Achievement Points have been awarded to all participants, as well as to the category winners, in recognition of their efforts and success. Winning photographs are now being displayed on the school screens, as well as included below, for everyone to enjoy and celebrate.

Sky scapes

Winner: Shirustika S Year 7

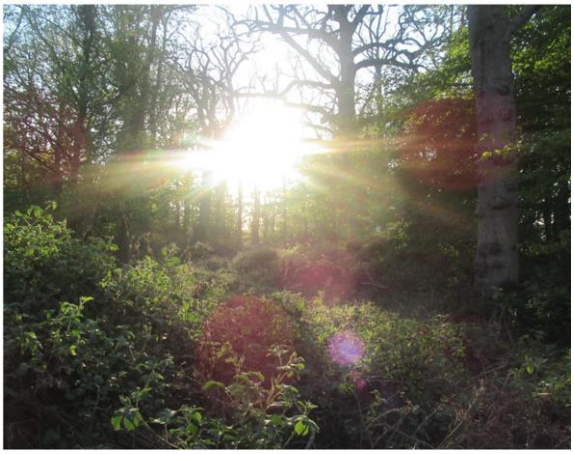


Highly Commended: Sophia M Year 7



Nature

Winner: Andrea F Year 11



Highly Commended: Eliyza B Year 8



Landscapes

Winner: Emelia P Year 7

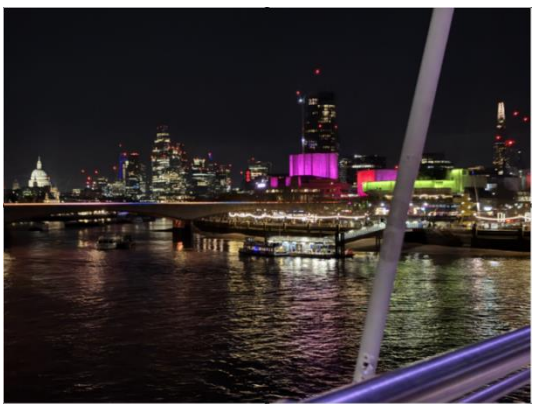


Highly Commended: Avani K Year 7



Urban life

Winner: Anne A Year 8



Year 12 Maths in Action trip

A group of our Year 12 mathematicians visited the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster for the inspiring Maths in Action lectures, where they explored the real-world impact of advanced mathematics.

Our students were inspired by a series of leading experts demonstrating the power of applied mathematics, including Professor Nira Chamberlain OBE, an expert in mathematical modelling and 2018's "World's Most Interesting Mathematician," who demonstrated how algorithms solve complex global engineering problems. They also heard from Dr Jamie Frost, creator of Dr Frost Learning and viral TikTok educator, who brought mathematical patterns to life with energetic and relatable everyday examples. The day was a fantastic success, sparked high-level academic discussion, and gave our students a brilliant insight into future STEM careers.

Year 12 Sociology in Action Conference

On Thursday 12th November, our Year 13 A Level Sociology students attended the *Sociology in Action* conference at the Emanuel Centre in Westminster.

Students heard from a fantastic lineup of leading academics and public figures:

- **Professor Tom Shakespeare** discussed the barriers faced by people living with disabilities and the importance of inclusion.
- **Lord Tony Sewell** reflected on his education work under Tony Blair's government and explored differences in achievement across social groups.
- **Professor Lambros Fatsis** (University of London) examined representations of crime in Drill music and the criminalisation of Drill artists.
- **Professor Judy Wajcman** (LSE) presented her research on gender bias within Artificial Intelligence programming.

The day was a huge success with our students. Our Sociology Captain, Alex described the event as *"intellectually stimulating,"* while our Head Student, Maya, praised it as *"very thought-provoking."*

Overall, the conference was a brilliant opportunity to bring the subject to life, support exam preparation, and extend students' knowledge beyond the curriculum.

Student Volunteer Recognition

We are delighted to announce one of our students being recognised at the 2026 Southend Volunteer Awards which took place on Thursday 22nd October. This event celebrates the dedication and contributions of volunteers in the Southend area and ten individuals and groups received honours celebrating contributions spanning health, sport, inclusion and the environment. Jocelyn A from Year 13 was awarded Youth Volunteer of the Year in recognition of her role on Southend Youth Council. This is a fantastic achievement and testament to Jocelyn's hard work within the local community. Congratulations, Jocelyn, we are very proud of you!

If you would like to read more about this, the link to the article from the Southend Echo is here: Southend Volunteer Awards recognise individuals and teams | Echo

Lockdown Drill

On Thursday 19th November during registration, students will complete their first lockdown drill of this academic year. Year 7 and 12 students have already completed a practise of the procedures in their registration last half term. Just like our regular fire drills, we practise lockdown procedures so that everyone feels prepared and knows what to do in the unlikely event that they are ever needed.

PE fixtures
For the week beginning Monday 16th November:

These fixtures may be subject to change and all details are posted on the respective PE extra-curricular Microsoft Teams page. If your child has not been added to their year group page, and needs to be, please ask them to speak to member of the PE department. Thank you.

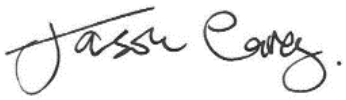
- Monday 16th November: U13 Netball Home v Brentwood
- Tuesday 17th November: U15 Football Away v Chase
- Wednesday 18th November: U15 Borough Badminton tournament at St. Bernard's
- Wednesday 18th November: U14 Football Home v Appleton
- Thursday 19h November: Year 9 Football Sports Leaders course at Cecil Jones
- Thursday 19th November: U15 Netball away v New Hall

Please be aware that for safeguarding reasons we cannot accommodate spectators on site for matches. Many schools apply this policy so please check with the opposing school directly.

Key Dates
The calendar on our website is regularly updated and contains key dates of activities and events that are taking place in school. A full list can be found here.

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Jason Carey
Headteacher